

A Harry Potter star with a big future. By Louise Baker

Emma Watson

SHE'S BEST KNOWN FOR THE CHARACTER SHE PLAYS IN THE HARRY POTTER SAGA: HERMIONE GRANGER. BUT EMMA WATSON IS A VERSATILE ACTRESS WITH A BIG FUTURE AHEAD OF HER.

Emma had a complex childhood. She was born on the 15th of April 1990, and spent the first five years of her life in Paris. Her parents (who were lawyers) went to the French capital for their jobs. Following their divorce, Emma, along with her mother and younger brother Alexander, moved to Oxfordshire. Both her parents have since re-married, and she now has a **half-brother** (Toby) and **twin** half-sisters (Nina and Lucy).

Emma showed a talent for acting at an early age. When she was seven, she won the Daisy Pratt award for her reading of *The Sea* by James Reeves. At the theatre school *Stagecoach Theatre Arts Oxford*, she was trained to sing, dance and act. Then, in 1999, she got her **big break**: an **audition** for a part in the *Harry Potter* series. The producers were astonished by her confidence, and they kept inviting her back for further auditions (there would be 8 in total). Eventually, she convinced them that she was the only girl for the part.

Emma was only nine when the first (and massively successful) *Harry Potter* film was shot in 2000. And from that day on, Emma Watson was known as Hermione Granger, becoming famous all over the world, along with 11-year-old Daniel Radcliffe (Harry) and 12-year-old Rupert Grint (Ron). However, despite all the filming and fame, she still managed to go to school. With the money from the first film alone, she was able to go to the **prestigious** Dragon School in Oxford, followed by Headington – an **independent school** for girls. She eventually took **A-levels** in English Literature, Art, and Geography, with an AS-level in History of Art... and **passed with flying colours**. At present, she's at Brown University, in Rhode Island (USA).

As an actress, she has always been admired... even by the hardest of critics. *The New York Times*, the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Los Angeles Times* have **rated** all her **performances** highly – above those of Daniel Radcliffe even. She has won the AOL Moviegoers Award for Best Actress

twice, and, aged just twenty-one, she's **ranked** as Hollywood's highest-paid female star.

But what's she like as a person? If she's really a **spoilt, tantrum-throwing diva** behind

the scenes, she has never **let it show**. Almost all the news stories surrounding her are positive, and never seem to cover anything but her education and her love for fashion – as well as the fashion world's love for her! She was the **face** of Burberry for two seasons in 2009 and 2010. She's the youngest actress to have appeared on the cover of both *Teen Vogue* (2005) and *Tatler* (2007)... oh, and she's also been on the cover of

Italian Vogue, *V* and *Elle*.

But Emma has also got a charitable side to her. She **endorses** the Fair Trade clothing brand "People Tree", having visited Dhaka (the capital of Bangladesh) and the factories in which clothes are made by workers with the lowest salaries

imaginable. "People Tree" ensures that workers have decent working conditions for the clothing they produce for its Fair Trade **line**. When interviewed about her visit to the **shanty towns** in Dhaka, Emma said, "It was **upsetting** to see the conditions in which these people live, but I was incredibly **moved** by their spirit and friendliness in spite of such apparent **adversity**."

Emma Watson and her life may seem truly spectacular, but in interviews, she **comes off as** a perfectly normal, happy, **bright** girl. If there's an exception to the rule that no grown child actor could possibly be lovable, then maybe, just maybe, Emma Watson is it. 🌱



I'M TOO OLD FOR THIS!

QUOTES

"Most young girls have a character they aspire to be, and mine was always the Little Mermaid."

"I keep being called 'Emily Watson' [*another English actress*], which is quite annoying. They're still doing that five years on!"

"If I was a guy I'd really like to play Snape, because I just think, it'd be really cool to play, like, the bad guy... But I don't think I'd ever be as good as him!"

"I don't think when we were **auditioning** it really occurred to us what fame would be like."

I want to be normal. I really want **anonymity**. I want to do the college experience properly, like everyone else."

"There are some actresses who don't know about things like **doing** their own **laundry** and getting a bus. I'm not going to be like that."

"The **wealth** side of it hasn't **hit** me yet because I have no need for money in my life. My life will not be motivated by money. I will never do a film because they're going to pay me a certain amount of money. It's liberating. It means I can hopefully make great choices."

"It's hard to imagine a place with less romance, really. I mean when we were all turning thirteen, fourteen, there was a bit of that going on. We all **fancied the hell out of each other**. But no, not anymore." [Emma talking about romance on the **set** of the *Harry Potter* films]

"Let's be honest: I have enough money never to have to work again, but I would never want that. Learning keeps me motivated."

TRIVIA

Emma's nicknames include "Em" and "One-Take Watson".

Emma speaks French, German, and Italian.

Emma was the voice of Princess Pea in the 2008 animated film *The Tale of Despereaux*.

Emma features in a video-clip for "Say You Don't Want It" by her boyfriend's band *One Night Only*.

When a *Harry Potter* director asked Emma and the other actors to write

essays about their on-screen characters, Daniel Radcliffe wrote one page, Rupert Grint **didn't bother** doing anything, and Emma **turned in** an impressive 16 pages.



GLOSSARY

a half-brother *n*

a brother from a relationship your mother or father has with another person

twin *adj*

two children who were born at the same time of the same parents

a big break *n*

an opportunity to become famous

an audition *n*

an interview for a part in a film or play

prestigious *adj*

if something is "prestigious", it has a high status and is considered among the best

an independent school *n*

a private school (not managed by the government/state)

A-level *n*

an exam taken in British schools usually at the age of 17-18

to pass with flying colours *exp*

if you "pass with flying colours" you get very good results in an exam

to rate *vb*

if you "rate" something positively, you think it is very good

a performance *n*

an actor's performance refers to the way they act in a film, play, etc.

ranked *adj*

if you are "ranked" in a certain position in a list, you have that position in that list

spoilt *adj*

if a child is "spoilt", they have been given too much money, attention, praise, etc.

tantrum-throwing *adj*

a "tantrum-throwing" person is someone who gets very angry when they don't get what they want

a diva *n*

a "diva" is a person (usually a woman) who is extremely demanding (wanting a lot of things) and self-important

let something show *exp*

if you "let something show", you don't hide that thing and others can see it

a face *n*

if a model is the "face" of a company, they represent that company

to endorse *vb*

to support

a line *n*

a particular kind of product produced by a person or company

a shanty town *n*

a poor area with no electricity or water where houses are made of old bits of wood, cardboard, etc.

upsetting *adj*

if something is "upsetting" it makes you feel sad

moved *adj*

affected emotionally

adversity *n*

a very difficult situation

to come off as *phr vb*

if someone "comes off as" a certain type of person, they seem to be genuinely like that

bright *adj*

intelligent, clever, etc.

to audition *vb*

to act in front of a director as part of an interview for a job in a film or play

anonymity *n*

if you want "anonymity", you don't want anyone to know who you are

to do your laundry *exp*

if you "do your laundry", you wash your clothes

to hit *vb*

if something "hits" you, you suddenly understand / accept it

a set *n*

the place where a scene for a film is shot

to fancy the hell out of someone *exp*

to really like someone in a romantic way

a take *n*

a "take" is a single attempt to capture a scene on film

an essay *n*

a written report on a particular subject

not bother *exp*

if you "don't bother" doing something, you don't make any effort to do it (often because you are too tired)

turn in *phr vb*

if you "turn something in", you give it to someone

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